AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for treating papermaking waste water, which comprises ~~having~~ adding a silica-aluminum based inorganic polymer flocculant having an Si/Al molar ratio of 0.2 to 1.5, ~~contained in papermaking waste water having a pH or adjusted pH of 5 to 14~~ a pH of 1.5 to 2.5 and an SiO_2 concentration of 5 to 25 g/L into a papermaking waste water having a pH or adjusted pH of 5 to 14 such that the concentration of the inorganic polymer flocculant becomes 1 to 250 (mg-Al/L) in terms of aluminum to control the pH of the papermaking waste water to 5 to 8 and then adding an organic polymer flocculant.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (**Currently Amended**) A method ~~of using silica sol which uses silica sol produced by~~ for producing a silica-aluminum based inorganic polymer flocculant, comprising:

(a) reacting a sodium silicate solution with a halogen-free mineral acid ~~as a retention aid and uses a silica-aluminum based inorganic polymer flocculant produced by~~ to produce silica sol; and

(b) adding aluminum sulfate to the silica sol ~~and having an~~ to produce a silica-aluminum based inorganic polymer flocculant;

wherein the a silica-aluminum based inorganic polymer flocculant produced has an Si/Al molar ratio of 0.2 to 1.5, a pH of 1.5 to 2.5 and an SiO_2 concentration of 5 to 25 g/L ~~as a flocculant for papermaking waste water~~ and wherein the silica sol produced in step (a) can be further used as a retention aid for improving papermaking productivity.

5. (Cancelled)